

INTELLOFAX 9

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] *File 220*
CD NO. 25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Tibet/India

DATE DISTR. 21 JUN 50

SUBJECT 1. Tibetan Mission to India
2. Important Tibetans

NO. OF PAGES 2

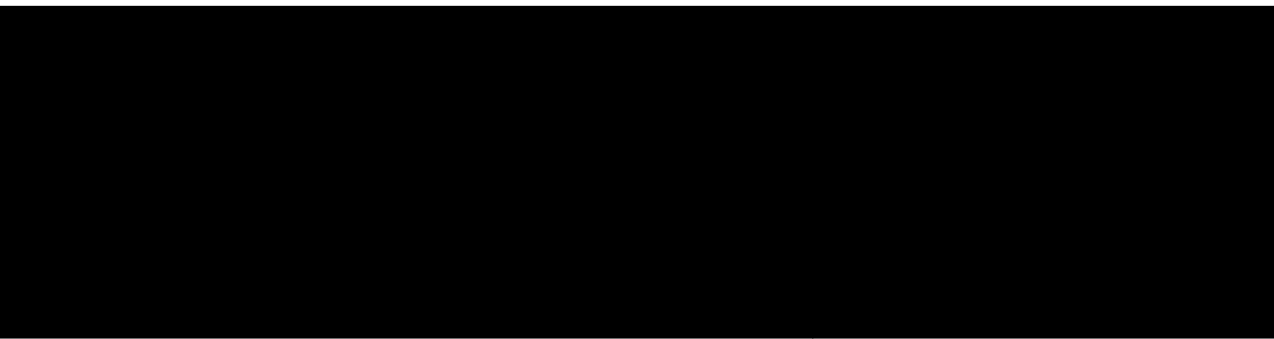
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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO. March - April 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



1. In March and April 1950 the Tibetan Government was planning to send a mission consisting of five men, three members of the clergy and two laymen, to New Delhi. The mission was to arrive in New Delhi in June 1950 and remain there for three or four years. Four members of the mission had left Lhasa and reached Gyangtse, where they were awaiting the arrival of the lay leader*, who was still in Lhasa. The mission was to have the following members:**

Lobzang Tsewang, with the rank of Khenchung (fourth rank).***

Lihtien Lobzang Yeshay, with the rank of Shoden.

Gompo Tsering Phunkang, fourth rank, secretary to Tsewang.

Surkhang Lha Thop Rimshe, who was a member of the Trade Mission to the United States.****

Tendong Seh.

Jetung La, a pupil of Tsewang, was also to accompany the group.

2. It was expected that the Government of India would accept the Tibetan mission if it were represented as a trade mission. It was believed that the mission's principle object was the securing of aid for Tibet.
3. A similar mission to Nepal was under discussion in Lhasa, but the plans for it had been withdrawn, for reasons unspecified. There was a possibility that Phunkang would go to Nepal and subsequently join the mission in New Delhi.
4. The Tibetan mission to London was canceled, and Yuthok Dzasa, who was to have led it, remained in Kalimpong.*****

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Next Review Date: 2008

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. The present Regent of Tibet is 77 years old, while the Dalai Lama is 15 or 16. At 18 years of age the Dalai Lama will nominally come into full power, but it is possible that he may not live that long because of the ambitions of those who are able to control the country as long as the Dalai Lama is a minor. At present, most of the power is wielded by Chando Chemo Dzasa, private secretary to the Regent.
6. The Dalai Lama receives Life and The National Geographic Magazine, and is given news bulletins in Tibetan, taken from radio broadcasts. He often gets magazines from the Indian Mission in Lhasa. While he can read and write only a little English, he thoroughly enjoys the magazines from the outside world, and he is also greatly interested in the internal situation in Tibet. His teachers frown on his learning English and encourage him to study only Tibetan scriptures and other religious writings, since too much secular education is considered harmful.

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Comment. [REDACTED] it is customary in forming a Tibetan mission to have the lamas and the laity fairly equally represented, with a leader for each group.

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Comment. The accuracy of the names as given is highly questionable. The informant and a Tibetan friend were not in agreement as to titles, given names, and surnames. Rimshe and Dzasa were indicated as titles.

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Comment. Shenchung has been reported as a title meaning "assistant to the leader."

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Comment. In the list of members of the Tibetan Trade mission presented in [REDACTED] the nearest approach to this name is Soka (Surkhang Depon, Sur-kang), the interpreter for the mission. In a more reliable report the same individual appeared as Depon Unda Surkang Se, with the explanation that Depon and Se were titles, and Surkang the family name. This is not in accord with the opinion of the source of the present report, who indicated that the surname was Thop.

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His name was reported as Yutok in paragraph

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